

RESOURCES for AGING
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Welcome to Resources for Aging, the electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) of the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) in Lansing**. It provides timely information about aging network news, events and resources.

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Complimentary Issues are sent directly by e-mail to those on the e-newsletter distribution list, and printed copies are mailed upon request to those who do not have Internet/e-mail access. Also, this issue and past issues can be accessed at www.miseniors.net.

For more information about this e-newsletter, see the RESOURCES FOR AGING section at the end of this issue.

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AGING NETWORK NEWS

Governor Signs Legislation to Protect Senior Adults

Gov. Jennifer Granholm has signed legislation requiring criminal background checks for workers in nursing homes and other types of health facilities. She praised the State Legislature for taking quick, bipartisan action on the legislation that she first called for last year. She also mentioned this legislation as a priority during her State of the State address last month.

The Governor said she was pleased to sign this legislation because it will help protect our state's most vulnerable citizens in long-term care (LTC) facilities they call home. It will improve safety standards for our elder parents and grandparents, and make Michigan a national leader by requiring federal background checks of all new employees who have direct access to elder and disabled patients or residents.

The legislation applies to workers in skilled nursing facilities/nursing facilities, LTC hospitals, hospitals with swing beds, intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation (ICF/MR), home health agencies, residential care and assisted living facilities, and hospices.

Last fall, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) received a \$5 million federal grant to implement the proposed background check program. To participate in the grant, Michigan needed tough, new laws to require background checks on individuals who provide direct care health services to individuals who reside in LTC facilities. The background checks need to be conducted prior to the employment or conditional employment of a direct care worker.

The Governor also applauded the state legislators who were the primary sponsors of the bills to see that they became law. They are **Rep. Paula Zelenko** (D-Burton) who sponsored House Bill (HB) 5168 of 2005 (now Public Act 26 of 2006); **Rep. Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) who sponsored House Bill (HB) 5448 of 2005 (now Public Act 27 of 2006); **Sen. Patricia L. Birkholz** (R-Saugatuck) who sponsored Senate Bill (SB) 621 of 2005 (now Public Act 28 of 2006); and **Sen. Tony Stamas** (R-Midland) who sponsored Senate Bill (SB) 622 of 2005 (now Public Act 29 of 2006). The Governor also thanked **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and **Rep. Michael Murphy** (D-Lansing) for standing with her on this issue.

For more information about the content of these bills, see the LEGISLATION section of this issue (below).

AoA's Proposed Budget Reduces Funding for Aging Services

The President's (FY) 2006-2007 budget request for the Administration on Aging (AoA) is \$1,338,000,000, representing a reduction of \$280,023,000 from FY 2005-2006.

The first wave of baby boomers is turning age 60, thereby adding to the more than 49 million Americans who already are age 60 or older, including more than five million who are older than age 85.

Because of this growing need, the AoA will work to strengthen the role of the Older Americans Act (OAA) to promote consumer choice, control and independence. It hopes to accelerate key systems changes that are needed to prepare the nation for the long-term care needs of the baby boom generation.

For example, the AoA is requesting \$28 million for Choices for Independence (Choices), an AoA initiative to help senior adults and their families conserve and extend their personal resources through the use of low-cost community-based alternatives, so they can remain at home and in their communities.

The proposed FY 2006-2007 budget request for the AoA also reduces Congregate Nutrition Services by \$1,918,000; Home Delivered Nutrition Services by \$906,000; the Nutrition Services Incentive Program by \$736,000; Preventive Health Services by \$21,400,000; the National Family Caregiver Support Program by \$1,980,000; the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program by \$990,000; and Alzheimer's Demonstration Grants by \$11,668,000. These total \$28,023,000.

The above proposed cuts in OAA funding must still be approved by the Congress and signed by the President. For more information, go to www.aoa.gov

Governor's Budget Helps Elders and Persons with Disabilities

According to the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (AAAAM), "the big news from Lansing is **Gov. Jennifer Granholm's** budget recommendations" for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-2007.

She "recommends increased wages for the Home Help program, setting a floor of \$6.60/hour, replacing the current floor of \$5.15. The increase would cost \$20 million total, with \$8.7 million of that state money, and \$12 million federal match. The added funds would come close to restoring a \$25 million cut in Home Help imposed previously by the Granholm administration."

Because of the increased wages for the Home Help program that set a floor of \$6.60/hour, it is estimated that "workers in 45 counties would see increases," even though it has been observed by **Rep. Bruce Caswell** (R-Hillsdale) that "many rural counties would not benefit from the increase, since they are already above \$6.60."

But the proposed increase is significant because "low wages have long been seen as a significant roadblock to quality assistance for Home Help clients. According to a state survey, 35 percent of Home Help Consumers" were forced to change their care provider in the past year, with most of those going through two or three providers."

Also, "the plight of the uninsured would also be addressed with an ambitious initiative to

cover half of the one million uninsured adults in the state. The First Health Care plan would assist people below 200 percent of the poverty level, and would provide health benefits through private insurers such as Blue Cross Blue Shield, with individuals contributing to the cost. A waiver would be necessary from the federal government. The Medicaid program would get a boost by increasing the bed tax on hospitals and HMOs, and local transit agencies would see a \$35 million increase.”

For more information, call **Mary Ablan** at AAAAM (517/886-1227) or e-mail her at ablan@iserv.net.

OSA and MSU to Sponsor Statewide Meeting for Kinship Providers

A statewide meeting for kinship service providers will be held 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **March 16** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**.

Sponsored by OSA and the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center, the statewide meeting will be held to bring together agency professionals and relative caregivers to discuss their needs and learn from one another.

Keynote speaker will be **Judy Paschalis** from the Kinship Navigator Program in Ohio. The program also will include grant writing and funding tips, a kinship legal and mediation summary, and ideas for successful kinship support groups from A-Z.

Kinship care is defined as the provision of full-time nurturing and protection of children by adults, other than parents, who have a family relationship bond with the children, also known as relative caregivers.

Most of the time this nurturing and protection is provided by grandparents when original families are torn apart by substance abuse, incarceration, death, mental and physical illness, AIDS, and child abuse and neglect.

In 2000, there were approximately 65,000 grandparent caregivers in Michigan who were raising 183,621 children. Of these, 76.2 percent were responsible for their grandchildren for more than one year. Also, 11.9 percent of these families lived below the poverty line, compared to 6.8 percent of the families in our state.

For more information or to register, call 517/355-9600 or toll-free 800/535-1218. Also go to www.kinshipcare or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

OSA EVENTS/MEETINGS

Michigan Task Force on Elder Abuse

The next meeting is taking place at 10:00 a.m. **March 2** at the Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft in **Livonia**. It will focus on issues of financial exploitation, specifically financial instruments used by elder adults and the regulation of them; case examples of elder financial exploitation through financial instruments; and mandatory reporting.

For more information, go to www.elderabusemi.org, or call **Wendi Middleton** at OSA

(517/373-8230) or e-mail her at middletonw@michigan.gov.

OSA/Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Directors

The meeting scheduled for February 14 has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held 1:30 p.m. **March 14** at a location to be determined. For more information, call **Jan Bowlin** at OSA (517/241-3864) or e-mail her at bowlinj1@michigan.gov, or call **Mary Ablan** at the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (517/886-1227) or e-mail her at ablan@iserv.net.

State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC)

The next meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **March 16** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Sally Steiner** at OSA (517/373-8810) or e-mail her at steiners@michigan.gov.

Statewide Kinship Service Providers Meeting

Sponsored by OSA and the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center, it will be held 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **March 16** at the Holiday Inn-Saginaw in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/355-9600 or toll-free 800/535-1218, or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu. Also see the AGING NETWORK NEWS section (below).

Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA)

The next meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **March 17** at ACCESS, 6451 Schaefer in **Dearborn**. For more information, call **Cindy Albrecht** at OSA (517/335-4016) or e-mail her at albrechtc@michigan.gov

OSA State Plan Public Input Sessions

The next state plan public input session will be held 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. **February 21** at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church in **Detroit**.

To date, OSA and the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) have conducted two public input sessions (**October 21** at the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways in **Mt. Pleasant** and **November 18** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center in **Lansing**) and will conduct five more sessions to obtain public input to develop the 2007-2010 State Plan on Services for Michigan's Older Citizens.

Those interested in transportation, nutrition, housing, long-term care (LTC), health, independence, scams, employment, and volunteer opportunities for senior adults, and other issues important to senior adults are invited to attend these free public input sessions to express their opinions to policy makers.

The five remaining input sessions will be held 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the following sites:

February 21 at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church in **Detroit**
March 17 at ACCESS in **Dearborn**
March 21 at Senior Services, Inc. in **Kalamazoo**
March 29 at the U of M Flint Conference Center in **Flint**

May 19 at the Little Bear East Arena & Community Center in **St. Ignace**

Verbal comments made by interested individuals at the public input sessions are welcome. Written comments also may be submitted by **May 20** to OSA (7109 West Saginaw Highway, P.O. Box 30676 in **Lansing**, 48909-8176). For more information or directions to the sites, go to the OSA website (www.miseniors.net) or call OSA (517/373-8230).

EVENTS/MEETINGS ADDED SINCE THE LAST ISSUE

Understanding Alzheimer's, an introductory program about memory loss and signs of Alzheimer's sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Michigan Great Lakes chapter **February 25** at the Sparrow Professional Building in **Lansing**. For more information or to register, go to www.alzmigreatlakes.org or call toll-free 800/272-3900.

Active Aging in Asia Pacific: Showcasing Best Practices, sponsored by the University of Hawaii (UH) Center on Aging and the UH Center for Japanese Studies **February 26-28** at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Spa and Resort in **Honolulu, HI**. For more information, go to <http://vrchawaii.org/activeaging> or call 808/956-8916.

Michigan's High Wire Act: State Budget Challenges Continue, a public policy forum sponsored by the Michigan League for Human Services to focus on Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-2007 Executive Budget recommendations, state revenue trends and their implications, and the impact of the Michigan structural deficit on providing critical services, including aging services **February 27** at the Lansing Center in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.mlsh.org or call 517/487-5436. Also see the OTHER RESOURCES section (below).

Singing Loudly in the Margins: Anishinaabeg Women and Decision-Making, a free talk sponsored by the Nakomis Learning Center, a Native American Cultural Center, and funded by a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council **March 7** at the Center in **Okemos**. For more information, go to www.nokomis.org or call 517/349-5777.

Choices: A Fresh Focus, the conference that celebrates food and health sponsored by the CS Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems at Michigan State University (MSU) **March 8** at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in **East Lansing**. For more information, go to www.mottgroup.msu.edu/choices or call 517/663-5147.

Be Ready or be Fined... a seminar sponsored by the Michigan Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (MAHSA) and the Michigan Assisted Living Association (MALA) about criminal background checks, fingerprinting and abuse prevention **March 9** at the Michigan State University (MSU) Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in **East Lansing**. For more information, call 517/323-3687 or e-mail to kbrophy@mahsahome.org.

19th Annual Meeting, sponsored by the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry **March 10-13** at the Caribbean Hilton San Juan Hotel in **San Juan, PR**. For more information, go to www.aagpmeeting.org or call 301/654-7850.

Restoring Acts of Triumph: A Sensorimotor Approach to the Treatment of

Traumatic Memory, sponsored by Voices Set Free and the Washington County Department of Community Corrections **March 24** at The Portland Hilton in **Portland, OR**. For more information, go to www.voicessetfree.org or call 503/352-1018.

The Next Step: Action Against Elder Abuse, the 20th Annual OCAPS Conference sponsored by the Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services (OCAPS) **March 27-28** at the Embassy Suites Hotel Columbus-Dublin in **Dublin, OH**. For more information, go to www.ocapsohio.org/conference.html or call 614/481-3511.

Summit: Aging in Developmental Disabilities, sponsored by the YAI National Institute for People with Disabilities Network **March 28** at the Institute in **New York, NY**. For more information, go to www.yai.org or call 212/273-6192.

19th Annual Issues in Aging Conference, sponsored by the Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology **May 15-16** at the Management Education Center in **Troy**. It will focus on "Cognitive Impairments: Clinical and Community Impacts," and "Older Adults: Emerging Tools and Programs." For more information, call 313/577-1180 or e-mail to dcme@med.wayne.edu.

Expo 2006, sponsored by the Community Transportation Association of America **June 3-9** at the Gaylord Palms in **Orlando, FL**. This event includes the **National Medical Transportation Conference** and the **New Mobility Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Conference**. For more information, go to www.ctaa.org, call 202/247-8356 or e-mail to Dickson@ctaa.org.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCES

10th Annual Play Therapy Conference, sponsored by Life Guidance Services, a nonprofit behavioral health organization, **February 24-25** at the Radisson Hotel in **Lansing**. For more information, call 616/774-9548, ext. 520.

Bridging the Gap, a weekend conference sponsored by the Michigan Association for Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Parents (MAFAK) in partnership with the Michigan Department of Human Services (MDHS) and the MSU School of Social Work **February 24-26** at the Radisson Plaza Hotel at Kalamazoo Center in **Kalamazoo**. For more information, call 586/469-4333 or e-mail to almaprill@aol.com.

11th Annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit, sponsored by the Office of Highway Safety Planning of the Michigan Department of Transportation (M-DOT) **February 28-March 1** at the Sheraton Lansing Hotel in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/333-5325.

Literacy for Life: Celebrating 50 Years of the MRA, an annual conference sponsored by the Michigan Reading Association (MRA) **March 18-20** at Cobo Center in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.michiganreading.org.

Michigan's Long-Term Care Conference, sponsored by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Office of Long-Term Care (LTC) Supports and Services **March 23-24** at the Hilton Detroit in **Troy**. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/mdch.

7th Annual Art of Aging Successfully Conference: Learning, Laughing and Caring, sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **March 29** at the Greater Grace Temple in **Detroit** to showcase the creative interests (crafts, memoirs and music) of non-professional Michigan senior adults age 55 and older. For more information, call 313/577-2297 or e-mail to j.mendez@wayne.edu.

Senior Summit 2006, a conference entitled "The Upside of Aging: The Business of Aging Professional Development Seminar," and sponsored by AARP and the Traverse Area Chamber of Commerce, and hosted by the Aging Institute of Michigan (AIM) **April 25** at the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa in **Traverse City**. For more information, go to www.seniorssummit.net or call 231/941-1905.

Michigan Nonprofit Super Conference 2006: New Directions in Nonprofit Excellence, sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association **May 2-3** at the Sheraton Detroit Novi in **Novi**. For more information, go to www.mnaonline.org or call 517/492-2400.

Partnering in Care: The Seventh Dr. Richard Seyfarth Schreiber Memorial Conference, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Michigan Great Lakes Chapter **May 16** at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in **Kalamazoo**. For more information go to www.alzmigreatlakes.org or call 269/387-4174.

2006 Joint Annual Conference, sponsored by the Michigan Association of Nutrition and Aging Service Programs (MANASP) and the Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging (MDSA) **May 17-18** at the Doubletree in **Bay City**. For more information, call 810/987-8811 or e-mail to coaj_hager@arenet.net or katygchc@sbcglobal.net.

Third Annual Michigan Mental Health & Aging Conference, sponsored by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and coordinated by the Lansing Community College (LCC) Mental Health and Aging Project **May 23-24** at the Michigan State University (MSU) Kellogg Center in **East Lansing**. For more information, call 517/483-1529 or e-mail to beham@lcc.edu.

MICHIGAN NONPROFIT SEMINARS/TRAINING EVENTS

Working with People with Dementia: Environmental and Communications Strategies, a Spring 2006 Gerontology Seminar sponsored by the Lansing Community College (LCC) Health and Human Services Careers Department, and the LCC Mental Health and Aging Project **March 3** at LCC in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/483-1529 or e-mail to beham@lcc.edu.

Skills Content for Social Work with Diverse Populations: Spanish Speaking Populations, a free workshop sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work **March 6** in Baker Hall at MSU. For more information, call 517/353-8616 or e-mail to hallr@msu.edu.

Trainers' Creativity Day Camp 2006, a two-day training experience for training coordinators sponsored by the Rockhurst University Continuing Education Center **March 7-8** at the Hilton Inn in **Southfield**, **March 8-9** at the Clarion Hotel Convention

Center in **Lansing**, and **March 9-10** at the Radisson Hotel North in **Grand Rapids**. For more information, call toll-free 800/258-7246 or go to www.nationalseminarstraining.com.

Your 36 Hour Day, an Issues in Aging for Professionals and Families seminar sponsored by Macomb County Community College **March 14** at its Fraser Campus in **Fraser**. For more information, go to www.macomb.edu or call 586/498-4006.

Non-Alzheimer's Primary Degenerative Dementias & Primary Degenerative Dementias Current Research, a training session sponsored by the Gerontology Network **March 17** at the DeVos Family Center for Scouting in **Grand Rapids**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Legal Issues and Eldercare, a Contemporary Issues in Aging seminar sponsored by Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work Continuing Education Program as part of its Professional Seminar Series **March 18** at MSU in **East Lansing**. For more information, go to www.ssc.msu.edu/-sw/ceu/index.html or call 517/353-8620.

Depression in Older Adults: Recognition and Treatment, a Spring 2006 Gerontology Seminar sponsored by the Lansing Community College (LCC) Health and Human Services Careers Department, and the LCC Mental Health and Aging Project **March 24** at LCC in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/483-1529 or e-mail to beham@lcc.edu.

Challenging Behaviors of Dementia, a training session sponsored by the Gerontology Network **March 31** at Shelby Adult Education in **Shelby**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Final Financial Decisions, an Issues in Aging for Professionals and Families seminar sponsored by Macomb County Community College **April 3** at its Fraser Campus in **Fraser**. For more information, go to www.macomb.edu or call 586/498-4006.

Skills Content for Social Work with Diverse Populations: Refugee Populations, a free workshop sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work **April 3** in Baker Hall at MSU. For more information, call 517/353-8616 or e-mail to hallr@msu.edu.

Losing Your World, a training session sponsored by the Gerontology Network **April 14** at Above & Beyond in **Norton Shores**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Aging, a Contemporary Issues in Aging seminar sponsored by Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work Continuing Education Program as part of its Professional Seminar Series **April 22** at MSU in **East Lansing**. For more information, go to www.ssc.msu.edu/-sw/ceu/index.html or call 517/353-8620.

Advanced Techniques in Dementia Care, a training session sponsored by the Gerontology Network **April 28** at Michigan Works at Michigan Works in **Reed City**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Losing Your World, a training session sponsored by the Gerontology Network **May 19**

at the Montcalm County Commission on Aging in **Stanton**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Grant Writing Made Simple, a training session sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **May 25** at the Holiday Inn-Saginaw in **Lansing**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

Advanced Techniques in Dementia Care, a training session sponsored by the Gerontology Network **June 9** at Evergreen Commons in **Holland**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Managing Challenging Behaviors of Dementia, a training session sponsored by the Gerontology Network **June 16** at the Osceola State Bank in **Baldwin**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Identifying Community Resources, a training session sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **June 23** at the Hannah Community Center in **East Lansing**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

OTHER MICHIGAN EVENTS/MEETINGS

Best Practices of Northern Michigan Committee (BPNM) Meeting, sponsored by Citizens for Better Care of Northern Michigan **March 7** at the Medilodge Nursing Home in **Sterling**. For more information, call toll-free 866/485-9393 or 231/947-2504.

Best Practices of Northern Michigan Committee (BPNM) Meeting, sponsored by Citizens for Better Care of Northern Michigan **April 4** at the Diocese of Gaylord in **Gaylord**. For more information, call toll-free 866/485-9393 or 231/947-2504.

Kent County Kinship Legal and Meditation Meeting, sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **April 20** at the Eastbrook Homes Conference Center in **Grand Rapids**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

Gala 2006: An Evening Under the Stars, entitled "Living Longer and Loving It" with net proceeds to benefit the Chronic Illness Coalition (CIC) **April 25** at the Laurel Manor Convention Center in **Livonia**. For more information, call 734/658-4317.

Wayne County Kinship Legal and Mediation Meeting, sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **April 26** at the William Costick Center in **Farmington Hills**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

Best Practices of Northern Michigan Committee (BPNM) Meeting, sponsored by Citizens for Better Care of Northern Michigan **May 2** at the Medilodge in **Hillman**. For more information, call toll-free 866/485-9393 or 231/947-2504.

Ingham County Kinship Caregivers Speak-Out Meeting with State Legislators

interested in kinship issues, sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **May 12** at the Hannah Community Center in **East Lansing**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

UP Kinship Service Provider's Meeting, sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **June 1** at the Northern Michigan University (NMU) Don Bottum University Center in **Marquette**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

CONFERENCES/EVENTS OUTSIDE MICHIGAN

2006 Annual Housing Policy Conference & Lobby Day, sponsored by the National Low Income Housing Coalition **February 27-28** at the Capital Hilton in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.nlihc.org, call 202/662-1530 or e-mail to conference@nlihc.org.

Native Women & Men's Wellness V Conference, a health promotion conference sponsored by the University of Oklahoma OUTREACH **March 5-9** at the Town and Country Resort Hotel in **San Diego, CA**. For more information, go to www.hpp.ou.edu or call 405/325-1316.

2006 Joint Conference, entitled "Invest in Aging: Strengthening Families, Communities and Ourselves" and co-sponsored by the National Council on the Aging (NCoA) and the American Society on Aging (ASA) **March 16-19** at the Hilton Anaheim and the Anaheim Marriott in **Anaheim, CA**. For more information, go to www.agingconference.org or call 800/537-9728, ext. 9675.

Senior Housing Operations & Financing Summit, sponsored by the World Research Group and the Wall Street Journal to optimize performance, and obtain capital for independent, assisted living, skilled nursing and CCRC properties **March 27-28** at Park Central New York in **New York, NY**. For more information, go to www.worldrg.com or call toll-free 800/647-7600.

Tools for Spiritual Care, an all-day seminar to explore various techniques for spiritual care through case studies sponsored by the Center for Spirituality and Aging and California Lutheran Homes **March 29** at the Villa Gardens Retirement Community in **Pasadena, CA** and **March 30** at Mt. Miguel Covenant Village in **Spring Valley, CA**. For more information, go to www.spiritualityandaging.org or call 714/239-6267.

Sixth Annual National Aging and Law Conference, sponsored by the AARP Foundation, the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA) and others, **April 19-23** at the Double Tree Hotel in **Arlington, VA**. For more information, go to www.aarp.org/nltp or call 202/434-2197.

2006 National Aging and Disability I&R/A Symposium, sponsored by the National Aging I&R Support Center and the National State Units on Aging (NASUA) to be held in conjunction with the Alliance of Information & Referral Systems (AIRA) Training and Education Conference **June 4-7** at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee in **Milwaukee, WI**. For more information go to www.nasua.org/informationandreferral, call 202/898-2578 or e-mail to glink@nasua.org.

Annual Research Meeting 2006 (the premier forum for health services research), sponsored by Academy Health **June 25-27** at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center in **Seattle, WA**. For more information, go to www.academyhealth.org/arm/abstracts.

Annual Training Conference, sponsored by the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Service Providers (NANASP) **June 29-July 1** at the Wynfry Hotel in **Birmingham, AL**. For more information, go to www.nanasp.org or call 202/682-6899.

30th Annual Summer School of Gerontology, sponsored by the South Carolina Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging **August 20-25** to provide education and training for professionals who work with the aging population and others interested in aging issues at Springmaid Beach, **Myrtle Beach, SC**. The lodging and meal costs of presenters, as well as limited travel costs, will be covered. For more information, call 803/734-9878 or e-mail to halljen@aging.sc.gov.

FOR-PROFIT TRAINING EVENTS/RESOURCES

The following information about for-profit training events and resources is presented as a public service for informational purposes only, and should not be interpreted as constituting OSA promotion or endorsement. OSA does not receive financial or any other benefit for providing this information.

Aquarius Home Health Media Offers DVDs and VHSs

Aquarius Home Health Media offers films, DVDs and VHSs to educate, motivate and inspire. These can be ordered by mail, telephone, fax or by e-mail (to orders@aquariusproductions.com).

Its media productions cover Disease & Healing, Aging & Health, Palliative Care & End of Life, and Disability Issues, Caregiving, Mental Health, and Bereavement, as well as a CancerStory Series, and a series entitled For Medical Staff (nursing, geriatric care, end-of-life and memory issues).

For more information call toll-free 888/440-2963. To view the entire media collection, go to www.aquariusproductions.com.

OTHER RESOURCES

MLHS Presents Public Forum on State Budget Challenges

The Michigan League for Human Services (MLHS) will sponsor a public forum entitled "Michigan's High Wire Balancing Act: State Budget Challenges Continue," 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon **February 27** at the Lansing Center in **Lansing**.

For the last six years, Michigan has faced budget deficits ranging from \$400 million to more than \$1 billion. Each year since Fiscal Year (FY) 2000-2001, the Governor and

Legislature have struggled to balance the budget through a mixture of program cuts, one-time savings, and modest revenue increases. While this has been caused to some extent by Michigan's lagging economy, the loss of revenue caused by multi-year tax cuts enacted in 1999 also have contributed to the deficits.

This year's MLHS public policy forum will focus on FY 2006-2007 Executive Budget recommendations, state revenue trends and their implications for this and future state budgets, and the impact of the structural deficit on the provision of critical services in Michigan, including aging network services.

Public forum presenters will include State Budget Director **Mary Lannoye**, House Fiscal Agency Director **Mitch Bean**, and Public Policy and Federal Affairs Director of the Michigan Municipal League **Arnold Weinfeld**. The forum moderator will be former State Representative **H. Lynn Jondahl**, now Director of The Michigan Prospect.

For more information, go to www.mlhs.org or call 517/487-5436.

FEDERAL REGISTER (January 30-February 17)

Commodities Available for Emergency Food Assistance Program

See the Federal Register dated **January 30** (Vol. 71, No. 19). Go to "Food and Nutrition Service" and see "Notices." This notice from the Food and Nutrition Service of the Department of Agriculture (DOA), effective **October 1, 2005**, announces the surplus and purchased commodities that DOA expects to make available for donation to states for use in providing nutrition assistance to those in need under the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) in 2005-2006. The commodities made available under this notice must, at the discretion of the states, be distributed to eligible recipient agencies for use in preparing meals, and/or for distribution to households for home consumption. Michigan officials will be responsible for establishing a network through which the commodities will be used by eligible recipient agencies. Surplus commodities donated for distribution under TEFAP are Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) commodities. Typically, they include meat, poultry, fish, vegetables, dry beans, juices and fruits. For more information, call 703/305-2662.

Corporation Proposes Penalties for Fraud Claims

See the Federal Register dated **February 1** (Vol. 71, No. 21). Go to "Corporation for National and Community Service" and see "Proposed Rules." This proposed rule from the Corporation proposes regulations to implement the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986. This act authorizes certain federal agencies, including the Corporation, to impose through administrative adjudication, civil penalties and assessments against any person who makes, submits or presents a false, fictitious or fraudulent claim or written statement to the agency. The act requires affected federal agencies to follow certain procedures in recovering penalties (up to \$5,000/claim) and assessments (up to double the amount falsely claimed) against persons who file false claims or statements for which the liability is \$150,000 or less. The proposed regulations from the Corporation establish the procedures that it will follow in implementing the provisions of the Act, and specify the hearing and appeal rights of persons, subject to penalties and assessments

under this act. Public comments are requested, and must be made by **April 3**. For more information, call 202/606-6675.

LEGISLATION

The following bills are listed for informational/educational purposes only. The list does not constitute OSA support or endorsement. Nor does it indicate the critical bills OSA considers to be of priority. All of this information is current, as of the date of this issue. But it is subject to change at any time through legislative action.

For more information about the content and legislative history of a particular bill, go to www.legislature.mi.gov (the Michigan Legislature website) and enter the bill number in the box under "Legislative Bill Search." Then click on "Go!" and the status page of the bill will appear with current information about the bill. Click on a "PDF" or "TXT" box for a copy of the latest version of the bill, or a House or Senate analysis of the bill.

The Michigan Legislature website (www.michiganlegislature.org) is a free service of the Legislative Internet Technology Team in cooperation with the Michigan Legislative Council, the Michigan House of Representatives, and the Michigan Senate. Also, call the Michigan Law Library at 517/373-0630 for legal research questions.

If you have a question or opinion about any of these bills, contact your state legislator. Also, you may call **OSA Director Sharon Gire** at 517/373-7876 or e-mail her at osadirector@michigan.gov.

New House Bills (January 30-February 17)

House Bill (HB) 5630 of 2006

Health; immunizations; pandemic influenza preparedness and response plan; establish. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Leslie Mortimer** (R-Horton) and co-sponsored by 23 others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 2-2-06.

House Bill (HB) 5631 of 2006

Health; planning; preparation of pandemic influenza plan and response to epidemics including animal-borne diseases; require department of agriculture to cooperate with department of community health. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Richard Ball** (R-Laingsburg) and co-sponsored by 12 others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 2-2-06.

House Bill (HB) 5651 of 2006

Sales tax; exemptions; sales tax on home heating; suspend. Amends Public Act (PA) 167 of 1933. Sponsored by **Rep. Chris Ward** (R-Brighton) and co-sponsored by 19 others. Referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy 2-8-06.

House Bill (HB) 5661 of 2006

Insurance; no-fault; premium discount to senior drivers who complete a certified accident prevention education driver safety course; provide for. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1956. Tie barred with HB 5663 (which means neither can take effect unless

both do). Sponsored by **Rep. Mike Nofs** (R-Battle Creek) and co-sponsored by 39 others. Referred to the House Committee on Insurance 2-9-06.

House Bill (HB) 5663 of 2006

Vehicles; driver training; secretary of state certification of traffic accident prevention course; provide for. Amends Public Act (PA) 300 of 1949. Tie barred with HB 5663 (which means neither can take effect unless both do). Tie barred with HB 5661 (which means neither can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Rep. Tupac Hunter** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by 23 others. Referred to the House Committee on Transportation 2-9-06.

House Bill (HB) 5669 of 2006

State agencies (existing); generally; toll-free number; establish for state departments and agencies. Amends Public Act (PA) 431 of 1984. Sponsored by **Rep. David Law** (R-West Bloomfield) and co-sponsored by seven others. Referred to the House Committee on Government Operations 2-9-06.

House Bill (HB) 5670 of 2006

State agencies (existing); generally; postmark date; allow as indication of timely submission for request. Creates new act. Sponsored by **Rep. John M. Proos** (R-St. Joseph) and co-sponsored by seven others. Referred to the House Committee on Government Operations 2-9-06.

House Bill (HB) 5672 of 2006

Health; pharmaceuticals; cancer drug donation program; create. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by 20 others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 2-14-06.

House Bill (HB) 5687 of 2006

Income tax; other; home heating credit fund; establish. Creates new act. Sponsored by **Rep. Tim Moore** (R-Farwell) and co-sponsored by 47 others. Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Technology 2-16-06.

House Bill (HB) 5689 of 2006

Income tax; home heating credit; household income qualifier; revise. Amends Public Act (PA) 281 of 1967. Tie barred with HB 5690 (which means neither can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Rep. Tom Casperson** (R-Escanaba) and co-sponsored by 48 others. Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Technology 2-16-06.

House Bill (HB) 5690 of 2006

Income tax; home heating credit; household income qualifier; revise. Amends Public Act (PA) 281 of 1967. Tie barred with HB 5689 (which means neither can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Rep. David Law** (R-West Bloomfield) and co-sponsored by 47 others. Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Technology 2-16-06.

House Bill (HB) 5694 of 2006

Property tax; assessments; transfer of ownership to certain senior citizens; revise. Amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Rep. Shelley Taub** (R-Bloomfield Hills) and co-sponsored by 14 others. Referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy 2-16-06.

House Bill (HB) 5706 of 2006

Health; pharmaceuticals; disclosure of gifts, advertising and marketing expenses, and promotional activities by pharmaceutical manufacturers and wholesale distributors; require. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Roger Kahn** (R-Saginaw Township) and co-sponsored by 19 others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 2-16-06.

House Bil (HB) 5707 of 2006

Health; pharmaceuticals; pharmacist to compile a drug retail price list; require. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Roger Kahn** (R-Saginaw Township) and co-sponsored by 16 others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 2-16-06.

New Senate Bills

(January 30-February 17)

Senate Bill (SB) 1017 of 2006

See "Bills that Have Moved" (below).

Retirement; public school employees; naming a second spouse as beneficiary if first spouse predeceases him or her, and naming of spouse as beneficiary if marriage occurs after retirement allowance effective date; allow. Amends Public Act (PA) 300 of 1980. Sponsored by **Sen. Ron Jelinek** (R-Three Oaks) and co-sponsored by two others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Education 1-31-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 1027 of 2006

See "Bills that have Moved" (below).

Senate Bill (SB) 1028 of 2006

See "Bills that have Moved" (below).

Senate Bill (SB) 1029 of 2006

See "Bills that have Moved" (below).

Senate Bill (SB) 1030 of 2006

See "Bills that have Moved" (below).

Senate Bill (SB) 1033 of 2006

Health facilities; nursing homes; regulation of temperature standards in nursing homes; provide for. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Sen. Raymond E. Basham** (D-Taylor) and co-sponsored by four others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 2-7-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 1037 of 2006

Income tax; credit; deadline to qualify charitable donations for tax credit; extend. Amends Public Act (PA) 281 of 1967. Sponsored by **Sen. Tom George** (R-Portage) and co-sponsored by five others. Referred to the House Committee on Finance 2-7-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 1039 of 2006

Sales tax; collections; eligibility for credit or refund for certain portion of a qualified sale of an auctioned item (by a nonprofit); clarify. Amends Public Act (PA) 175 of 2004. Sponsored by **Sen. Michelle McManus** (R-Lake Leelanau) and co-sponsored by five others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance 2-8-06.

Bills that have Moved
(Since September 1, 2005)

See Changes (below) to the Following Bills (January 30-February 17)
House Bill (HB) 4337 of 2005, House Bill (HB) 4423 of 2005, House Bill (HB) 4606 of 2005, House Bill (HB) 4670 of 2005 (Now PA 24 of 2006), **House Bill (HB) 5002 of 2005, House Bill (HB) 5168 of 2005** (Now PA 26 of 2006), **House Bill (HB) 5348 of 2005, House Bill (HB) 5375 of 2005** (Now PA 25 of 2006), **House Bill (HB) 5448 of 2005** (Now PA 27 of 2006), **House Bill (HB) 5493 of 2005, House Bill (HB) 5602 of 2006, Senate Bill (SB) 621 of 2005** (Now PA 28 of 2006), **Senate Bill (SB) 622 of 2005** (Now PA 29 of 2006), **Senate Bill (SB) 838 of 2005, Senate Bill (SB) 880 of 2005, Senate Bill (SB) 1027 of 2006, Senate Bill (SB) 1028 of 2006, Senate Bill (SB) 1029 of 2006, and Senate Bill (SB) 1030 of 2006.**

House Bill (HB) 4074 of 2005

This bill, with HB 5314, would remove community college employees hired after January 1, 2006 from the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System, and would revise the definition of “eligible employees” to include administrators or faculty employed at a community college on a part-time basis. Amends Public Act (PA) 156 of 1967. Sponsored by **Rep. Bruce Caswell** (R-Hillsdale). Referred to the House Committee on Higher Education 1-27-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analyses 3-18-05 and 11-28-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 12-8-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Education 12-13-05.

House Bill (HB) 4337 of 2005

This bill would amend the Income Tax Act to allow a taxpayer to claim an additional exemption of \$1,800 if the taxpayer provides primary care for a parent who is a “senior citizen” and if the Department of Human Services determines that such care prevents institutionalization of that parent. The bill would apply to tax years beginning after December 31, 2004. (An exemption reduces the amount of income tax subject to tax). The bill defines “primary care” to mean acts that meet the physical or mental requirements of a family member who cannot meet those requirements without assistance or supervision, including acts related to health, safety, nutrition, hygiene, homemaking or other activities of daily living. The act currently defines “senior citizen” to mean an individual who is 65 years of age or older, or the un-remarried surviving spouse of an individual who was 65 years of age or older at the time of death. Amends Public Act (PA) 281 of 1967. Sponsored by **Rep. Rick Shaffer** (R-Three Rivers) and co-sponsored by five others. Referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy 2-17-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 12-1-05. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 12-1-05. Reported with recommendation with House substitute bill 1-31-06. Referred to second reading 1-31-06.

House Bill (HB) 4423 of 2005

This bill would make it an unfair or deceptive act or practice for a telephone solicitor to misrepresent – in a message left for a consumer on an answering machine or voice mail – that the consumer had a current business matter or transaction, or a current business or customer relationship, and request that the consumer call the telephone solicitor (or another person) to discuss that matter, transaction, or relationship. Amends Public Act (PA) 227 of 1971. Sponsored by **Rep. Lisa Wojno** (D-Warren) and co-sponsored by 12 others. Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Technology 3-1-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 11-29-05. Reported with recommendation

without amendment 2-15-06. Referred to second reading 2-15-06. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 2-15-06.

House Bill (HB) 4606 of 2005

The bill would amend the Public Health Code to require a health facility's or agency's policy describing patient or resident rights and responsibilities to include references to the Medical Records Access Act and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Stephen Adamini** (D-Marquette) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 4-13-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analyses 10-17-05 and 10-24-05. House substitute bill adopted 10-25-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 10-26-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-27-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 2-7-06, 2-9-06 and 2-10-06. Passed by the Senate and given immediate effect 2-15-06. Bill ordered enrolled 2-15-06.

House Bill (HB) 4670 of 2005

See "2005-2006 Public Acts" (below).

House Bill (HB) 4751 of 2005

This bill would amend the Social Welfare Act, which deals with the Medicaid program, to allow Medicaid-eligible individuals to receive services related to care (e.g., assisted living) provided in an adult foster care facility licensed under the Adult Foster Care Facility Licensing Act if certain conditions are met. The Michigan Department of Community Services (DCH) would be required to seek a waiver from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide adult foster care-related services. Amends Public Act (PA) 280 of 1939. Sponsored by **Rep. Richard Ball** (R-Laingsburg) and co-sponsored by 13 others. Referred to the House Committee on Family and Children Services 5-10-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 10-17-05. Reported with recommendation with a House substitute bill 11-1-05. Referred to second reading 11-1-05.

House Bill (HB) 4773 of 2005

Torts; product liability; immunity from liability for drugs that have been approved by federal food and drug administration; rescind. Amends Public Act (PA) 236 of 1961. Sponsored by **Rep. Dianne Byrum** (D-Onondaga) and co-sponsored by 37 others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 5-11-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-8-05. Placed on second reading 9-8-05.

House Bill (HB) 4789 of 2005

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to address the use of "dining assistants" by nursing homes. It would allow nursing homes to use dining assistants to feed residents who need assistance or encouragement with eating and drinking but do not have complicated feeding problems, such as difficulty swallowing, recurrent lung aspirations, and tube or parenteral feedings. The use of a dining assistant would be based on a charge nurse's assessment of the resident and that resident's most recent plan of care. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by 10 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 5-17-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 9-27-05. House substitute bill adopted 10-18-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 10-19-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-20-05.

House Bill (HB) 4792 of 2005

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to require that the Department of Community Health (DCH) transmit to a nursing home a written or electronic copy of the results of each visit and survey conducted within 10 business days after the visit. Within 24 hours after receiving the survey report, or within 24 hours after receiving notice that the department has approved a nursing home's plan of correction, the nursing home would have to post the report in a conspicuous place in the home for public review. Within 30 days after the report or correction plan is posted, the nursing home would have to notify its residents it had been received and was posted within the nursing home, and that a summary was available through the Internet or on the DCH website. A nursing home could satisfy the notification by including a notification in a monthly newsletter or other written documentation, distributed to the resident, the resident's family, or a designated representative. If the survey report or plan of correction includes an immediate jeopardy citation, the nursing home would be required to include a description of the citation and a description of how the situation was corrected. If the department issues a notice of an immediate jeopardy situation to a nursing home, then the nursing home would be required to post the notice, with the nursing home's plan to rectify the situation, immediately after the removal of the immediate jeopardy situation. The notice would have to be placed in a conspicuous place for public view in the nursing home for not less than seven days. If the immediate jeopardy situation results in serious injury, or a change in the health status of a resident or residents within the nursing home, the home would be required to immediately notify the resident's family, or a designated representative, of the immediate jeopardy situation. In addition, the bill would require that, before renewing a license, MDCH review the most recent inspection, survey and evaluation of that facility, and any written determination made concerning a complaint filed within the previous two years. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Paula Zelenko** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by two others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 5-17-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 10-10-05. House substitute bill adopted 10-18-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 10-19-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 10-19-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-20-05.

House Bill (HB) 4811 of 2005

Torts; liability; liability suits brought against drug manufacturers for drugs that have been approved by federal food and drug administration; allow. Amends Public Act (PA) 236 of 1961. Sponsored by **Rep. Leon Drolet** (R-Clinton Township) and co-sponsored by three others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 5-19-05. Notice given to discharge committee 9-7-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-8-05. Placed on second reading 9-8-05.

House Bill (HB) 5002 of 2005

Health facilities; hospitals; quality assurance assessment; extend sunset and increase hospital appropriation. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Alma Smith** (D-Ypsilanti) and co-sponsored by 15 others. Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 6-23-05. Reported with recommendation without amendment(s) 6-28-05. Referred to second reading 6-28-05. Re-referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 2-15-06.

House Bill (HB) 5071 of 2005

Consumer protection; unfair trade practices; liability for inaccurate representations concerning risks of certain drugs, medications, and supplements; clarify. Amends

Public Act (PA) 331 of 1976. Sponsored by **Rep. Marie Donigan** (D-Royal Oak) and co-sponsored by four others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 7-27-05. Notice given to discharge committee 9-7-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-8-05. Placed on second reading 9-8-05.

House Bill (HB) 5081 of 2005

This bill would permit an individual who is unable to write to use his or her fingerprints as a written signature. That is, visible fingerprints would be included as a "paper mark." Amends RS 1 of 1846 (MCL 8.3q). Sponsored by **Rep. Leon Drolet** (R-Clinton Township). Referred to the House Committee on Government Relations 8-10-05. Notice given to discharge committee 8-31-05. Motion to discharge committee approved by the House 9-6-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 9-7-05. Re-referred to the House Committee on Governmental Operations 9-28-05.

House Bill (HB) 5139 of 2005

Civil procedure, statute of limitations; drug product liability cases previously prohibited because of FDA approval defense; allow to be commenced within 3 years of repeal of defense. Amends PA 236 of 1961. Tie barred with HB 4773 (which means neither can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Rep. Gary McDowell** (D-Rudyard) and co-sponsored by 10 others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 9-7-05. Notice given to discharge committee 8-31-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-6-05. Placed on second reading 9-6-05.

House Bill (HB) 5166 of 2005

This bill would amend the Adult Foster Care Facility Licensing Act to require background checks on new employees of adult foster care facilities. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1979. It is tie-barred with HB 5168 (which means neither can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and co-sponsored by 57 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 9-13-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analyses 11-28-05 and 12-6-05. House substitute bill adopted 12-6-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 12-6-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs 12-7-05.

House Bill (HB) 5167 of 2005

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to apply background check requirements to applicants for initial licensure or registration in health occupations. The bill would impose a nominal fee, beginning January 1, 2006, not to exceed \$2 for the processing of criminal history background checks for applicants for initial licensure or registration and renewals, and the applicants would be responsible for any charges for the criminal history check. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Michael Murphy** (D-Lansing) and co-sponsored by 43 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 9-13-05. House Fiscal Agency(HFA) Legislative Analyses 11-28-05 and 12-6-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 12-6-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs 12-7-05.

House Bill (HB) 5168 of 2005

See "2005-2006 Public Acts" (below).

House Bill (HB) 5183 of 2005

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to require a nursing home, county

medical care facility, or home for the aged to provide each employee who provides direct services to patients or residents with a written notice of its substance abuse policy, or a copy of that policy if the facility requires employees to submit to substance screening or abuse testing, whether random or otherwise, as a condition of employment. The notice would be provided upon hiring. If a notice of the policy is provided in lieu of a copy, the notice will contain the following: (a) Circumstances under which an employee may be required to submit to a test. (b) Consequences for refusing to submit to a test. (c) Procedures for challenging the accuracy of the test. (d) Notice and testing requirements. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Joe Hune** (R-Hamburg) and co-sponsored by three others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 9-15-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 9-27-05. House substitute bill adopted 10-18-05. House Fiscal Analysis (HFA) 10-19-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 10-19-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-20-05.

House Bill (HB) 5198 of 2005

This bill would amend Public Act 259 of 1909, which pertains to judgments of divorce and judgments of separate maintenance, to clarify that each judgment of divorce or judgment of separation would have to determine all rights, including any contingent rights of the parties regarding any vested pension, annuity, or retirement benefit; any accumulated contributions in any pension, annuity, or retirement system; and, in accordance with the revised Statutes of 1846, any unvested pension, annuity or retirement benefits. Sponsored by **Rep. Tonya Schuitmaker** (R-Lawton) and co-sponsored by 58 others. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 9-21-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analyses 12-5-05 and 12-12-05. House substitute bill adopted 12-13-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 12-13-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary 1-11-06.

House Bill (HB) 5325 of 2005

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to require a hospital, during flu season, to inform each elderly person admitted to the hospital for a period of 24 hours or more that the influenza vaccine is available. This would apply unless a flu vaccine shortage has been declared, causing a hospital to have an inadequate supply in stock. If an elderly person requests to be vaccinated, and a physician, physician's assistant, or certified nurse practitioner determines that the vaccine is in the patient's best interest, the hospital would have to administer the vaccination to the elderly person before he or she is discharged, and document the vaccination in the patient's medical record. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Kevin Green** (R-Wyoming) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 10-18-02. Referred with recommendation without amendment(s) 11-1-05. Referred to second reading 11-1-05.

House Bill (HB) 5348 of 2005

This bill would bring long-term care coverage provided by Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBS) under the code (and repeal long-term care provisions in the act governing BCBS), and would specifically include assisted living facilities as a setting where services covered by long-term care insurance could be provided. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1956. Sponsored by **Rep. Kevin Green** (R-Wyoming) and co-sponsored by 10 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 10-20-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 2-13-06. Reported with recommendation without amendments 2-14-06. Referred to second reading 2-14-06. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 2-15-06.

House Bill (HB) 5349 of 2005

This bill would amend Chapter 39 of the Insurance Code, which deals with long-term care insurance, to make a number of amendments that incorporate features of a model act developed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. The amendments would add consumer protections, including requiring policies to contain nonforfeiture benefits and contingent benefits to prevent the loss of coverage when policy premiums increase; revise rate-making regulations; and address agent training requirements. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1956. Sponsored by **Rep. Paula Zelenko** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by 36 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 10-20-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 2-13-06. Reported with recommendation without amendments 2-14-06. Referred to second reading 2-14-06. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 2-15-06.

House Bill (HB) 5375 of 2005

See “2005-2006 Public Acts” (below).

House Bill (HB) 5387 of 2005

This bill would create a 13-member Catastrophic Medical Coverage Task Force to conduct a study on whether a statewide catastrophic health care coverage pool is an appropriate means of providing all state residents with coverage for catastrophic health claims. The task force would be created within the Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS), and OFIS would provide technical assistance, including actuarial services. The task force would be required to report to the Legislature within one year after the bill’s effective date on the findings and recommendations resulting from its study. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1956. Sponsored by **Rep. Andy Dillon** (D-Redford) and co-sponsored by 15 others. Referred to the House Committee on Insurance 11-1-05. Reported with recommendation with House substitute bill. Referred to second reading.

House Bill (HB) 5448 of 2005

See “2005-2006 Public Acts” (below).

House Bill (HB) 5487 of 2005

Property tax; exemptions; tax exemption for certain nonprofit housing corporations and nonprofit corporations with a license to solicit charitable donations; provide for. Amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Rep. Joe Hune** (R-Hamburg) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Local Government and Urban Policy 12-7-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 12-13-05. House substitute bill adopted 12-13-05. Passed by the House with immediate effect 12-13-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Local, Urban and State Affairs 1-11-06.

House Bill (HB) 5493 of 2006

This bill would adopt model legislation initiated by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. Based on a mutual recognition model of nurse licensure, the Compact would allow a registered nurse (RN) or a licensed practical nurse (LPN) to be licensed by his or her home state of residency, and to practice in another compact state – without an additional license – as long as the nurse adhered to the other state’s practice laws and discipline. Creates new act. Sponsored by **Rep. John Stakoe** (R-Highland) and co-sponsored by 40 others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 12-8-05. Reported with recommendation with House substitute bill 12-7-06. House Fiscal

Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 1-30-06. Referred to second reading 2-7-06.

House Bill (HB) 5602 of 2006

Both the Adoption Code and the Estates and Section 4114(20 of the Estates and Protected Individuals Code (EPIC) deal with the rights of inheritance of adopted individuals. This bill would amend the inheritance provision in the Adoptive Code (which is within the Probate Code) to defer to EPIC. It would specify that the inheritance provision in the Adoption Code would apply except as provided in Section 4114(2) of Epic. Amends Public Act (PA) 288 of 1939. Sponsored by **Rep Tonya Schuitmaker** (R-Lawton) and co-sponsored by two others. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 1-24-06. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 2-7-06. House substitute bill adopted 2-15-06. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 2-15-06. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 2-16-06. Referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary 2-21-06

Senate Bill (SB) 267 of 2005

Appropriations; community health; Department of Community Health; provide for fiscal year 2005-2006. Creates new appropriations act. Sponsored by **Sen. Deborah Cherry** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 3-2-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 6-6-05 and 6-9-05. Reported by the Senate Committee on the Whole favorably with Senate substitute bill and amendments. Senate substitute bill concurred in by the Senate as amended 6-14-05. Passed by the Senate 6-14-05. Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 6-16-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 6-22-05. House substitute bill adopted by the Senate 6-28-05. Passed by the House 6-28-05. Returned to the Senate 6-28-05. House substitute bill nonconcurred in by the Senate 6-30-05. Referred to Conference Committee 9-13-05. Conference Report 9-20-05. Conference Report received by the Senate 10-11-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 10-11-05. Senate reconsidered nonconcurrence with House Bill 10-11-05. For final disposition of budget, see House Bill (HB) 4831, now Public Act (PA) 154 of 2005.

Senate Bill (SB) 334 of 2005

This bill would amend the Customer Choice and Electricity Reliability Act (the act) to create the Low Income Energy Assistance and Efficiency Program within the Public Service Commission (PSC); require the PSC to implement a low income energy assistance and efficiency factor that would be a nonbypassable surcharge payable by every customer receiving a distribution service from a natural gas or electric utility with rates regulated by the PSC; create the Low Income Energy Assistance and Efficiency Fund within the State Treasury, and require money collected through the surcharge to be deposited into the fund; allow the PSC, in consultation with the Attorney General, to authorize the State Treasurer to make disbursements from the fund through a grant process to any entity that provided assistance to utility customers; and repeal Section 6c of the act which allows the PSC to approve energy conservation programs for residential customers, and fund those programs through general utility rates. Amends Public Act (PA) 3 of 1939. Sponsored by **Sen. Bruce Patterson** (R-Canton) and co-sponsored by 15 others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Technology and Energy 3-22-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 4-27-05 and 5-24-05. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole with Senate substitute bill 5-24-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 5-25-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations 9-14-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 621 of 2005

See "2005-2006 Public Acts" (below).

Senate Bill (SB) 622 of 2005

See “2005-2006 Public Acts” (below).

Senate Bill (SB) 712 2005

This bill would amend the Michigan Penal Code to allow recreational card playing at nonresidential senior centers. Currently Chapter 44 of the code, which regulates gambling, does not apply to card playing at senior citizen housing facilities. The bill would extend that exemption to senior centers that are not housing facilities. Amends Public Act (PA) 328 of 1931. Sponsored by **Sen. Cameron Brown** (R-Sturgis). Referred to the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs 8-31-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 10-19-05 and 11-1-05. Senate substitute bill concurred in by the Senate 11-1-05. Passed by the Senate 11-3-05. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 11-3-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 838 of 2005

States have the option of providing Medicaid coverage to 19 and 20-year olds who have incomes that meet the Federal cash welfare or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) assets and income standards. States also have the option of covering a group generally known as Medicaid caretaker relatives. These are individuals, often grandparents, aunts or uncles who care for children who are not their own, and whose income is low enough to meet the cash welfare assets and income standards. This bill would replace the reference to categorical eligibility for these two groups with a statement that eligibility would be subject to Title XIX of the Social Security Act, subject to limitations imposed by the Department of Community Health (MDCH) Director. This would allow implementation of limited benefits if a federal waiver were granted pursuant to Title XIX. Amends Public Act 280 of 1939. Sponsored by **Sen. Robert L. Emerson** (D-Flint). Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 10-25-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 2-13-06. Passed by the Senate 2-15-06. Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 2-15-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 880 of 2005

This bill would create “Annuity Recommendation to Senior Consumer” of the Insurance Code to require an insurance producer or insurer to have reasonable grounds to believe that a recommendation to a senior consumer to purchase or exchange an annuity was suitable to the consumer based on his or her financial situation. Before executing a purchase or exchange, an insurance producer or insurer would have to make reasonable efforts to obtain the senior consumer's financial status, tax status and investment objectives. The bill also would require an insurer to establish and maintain a system to supervise recommendations, designed to achieve compliance with the bill, or assure that such a system was established and maintained. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1956. Sponsored by **Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom** (R-Norton Shores) and co-sponsored by two others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Banking and Financial Institutions 11-9-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 2-2-06. Senate substitute bill as amended concurred in by the Senate 2-8-06. Senate Fiscal Analysis 2-8-06. Senate substitute bill as amended passed by the Senate 2-9-06. Referred to the House Committee on Insurance 2-9-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 1027 of 2006

This bill would amend the Adult Foster Care Facility Licensing Act to prohibit the promulgation of a rule or exception to a rule that discriminated for or against providers, facilities or employers, based on whether they had a collective bargaining agreement

with employees, or that used collective bargaining status, level or wages, or fringe benefits to demonstrate or excuse compliance with state licensing or regulatory requirements. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1979. Sponsored by **Sen. Alan L. Cropsey** (R-DeWitt) and co-sponsored by three others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Families and Human Services 2-2-06. Senate Fiscal Analyses 2-6-06 and 2-8-06. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole with Senate substitute bill 2-9-06. Senate Fiscal Analysis 2-13-06. Senate substitute bill concurred in 2-14-06. Passed by the Senate 2-14-06. Referred to the House Committee on Government Operations 2-14-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 1028 of 2006

This bill would amend the Social Welfare Act to prohibit the promulgation of a rule or exception to a rule that discriminated for or against providers, facilities or employers, based on whether they had a collective bargaining agreement with employees, or that used collective bargaining status, level or wages, or fringe benefits to demonstrate or excuse compliance with state licensing or regulatory requirements. Amends Public Act (PA) 280 of 1939. Sponsored by **Sen. Alan Sanborn** (R-Richmond) and co-sponsored by four others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Families and Human Services 2-2-06. Senate Fiscal Analyses 2-6-06 and 2-8-06. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole with Senate substitute bill 2-9-06. Senate Fiscal Analysis 2-13-06. Senate substitute bill concurred in 2-14-06. Passed by the Senate 2-14-06. Referred to the House Committee on Government Operations 2-14-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 1029 of 2006

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to prohibit the promulgation of a rule or exception to a rule that discriminated for or against providers, facilities or employers, based on whether they had a collective bargaining agreement with employees, or that used collective bargaining status, level or wages, or fringe benefits to demonstrate or excuse compliance with state licensing or regulatory requirements. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Sen. Beverly S. Hammerstrom** (R-Temperance) and co-sponsored by three others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Families and Human Services 2-2-06. Senate Fiscal Analyses 2-6-06 and 2-8-06. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole with Senate substitute bill 2-9-06. Senate Fiscal Analysis 2-13-06. Senate substitute bill, as amended, concurred in 2-14-06. Passed by the Senate 2-14-06. Referred to the House Committee on Government Operations 2-14-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 1030 of 2006

This bill would amend the Mental Health Code to prohibit the promulgation of a rule or exception to a rule that discriminated for or against providers, facilities or employers, based on whether they had a collective bargaining agreement with employees, or that used collective bargaining status, level or wages, or fringe benefits to demonstrate or excuse compliance with state licensing or regulatory requirements. Amends Public Act (PA) 258 of 1974. Sponsored by **Sen. Beverly S. Hammerstrom** (R-Temperance) and co-sponsored by three others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Families and Human Services 2-2-06. Senate Fiscal Analyses 2-6-06 and 2-8-06. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole with Senate substitute bill 2-9-06. Senate Fiscal Analysis 2-13-06. Senate substitute bill concurred in 2-14-06. Passed by the Senate 2-14-06. Referred to the House Committee on Government Operations 2-14-06.

2005-2006 Public Acts

Public Act (PA) 24 of 2005**House Bill (HB) 4188 of 2005**

This bill amends the General Property Tax Act to increase from \$25,000 to \$35,000 the maximum household income of a taxpayer 62 years old, or older, who may defer the collection of summer property taxes, and to remove the income limit for other taxpayers eligible for the summer tax collection deferral. It amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Rep. Tory Rocca** (R-Sterling Heights) and co-sponsored by 72 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 5-23-05, and assigned PA 24 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 72 of 2005**House Bill (HB) 4434 of 2005**

This bill amends the Public Health Code to provide that pharmacies that shared a real-time, online database or other equivalent means of communication, or pharmacies that transferred prescriptions pursuant to a written contract for centralized prescription processing services, would not have to follow the procedure established in the Code to refill a copy of a prescription from another pharmacy. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt) and co-sponsored by 82 others, this bill was tie-barred with SB 352 (which meant neither could take effect unless both did). It was **approved by Gov. Granholm 7-19-05, and assigned PA 72 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 73 of 2005**Senate Bill (SB) 352 of 2005**

This bill amends the Public Health Code to allow a pharmacy to perform centralized prescription processing services or outsource those services to another pharmacy if certain conditions are met. It amends Public Act 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Sen. Bill Hardiman** (R-Kentwood) and co-sponsored by 23 others, this bill was tie-barred with HB 4434 (which meant neither could take effect unless both did). It was **approved by Gov. Granholm 8-31-05, and assigned PA 73 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 85 of 2005**House Bill (HB) 4405 of 2005**

This bill amends the Public Health Code to eliminate the authority of a disciplinary subcommittee to impose sanctions against a pharmacist for employing the mail to sell, distribute, or deliver a drug that requires a prescription when the prescription for the drug is received by mail. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gretchen Whitmer** (D-East Lansing) and co-sponsored by 63 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 7-20-05, and assigned PA 85 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 109 of 2005**House Bill (HB) 4436 of 2005**

Appropriations; zero budget; supplemental appropriations; provide for fiscal year 2004-2005. This bill increases private funds authorization for OSA \$75,000 to recognize private contributions for administering the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for Seniors, or Project FRESH. Federal funds support the food costs, and the administrative costs must be supported by the state and other contributors. It creates a new appropriations act. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 9-15-05, and assigned PA 109 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 114 of 2005

Senate Bill (SB) 348 of 2005

The General Property Tax Act requires local tax collecting units that collect a summer property tax to defer the collection, at the taxpayer's request, until the following February 15 for the principal residence of taxpayers with a household income of \$35,000 or less. To be eligible for the deferment, a taxpayer must be totally and permanently disabled, blind, paraplegic, quadriplegic, or an eligible serviceperson or an eligible veteran (or be the widow or widower of such a person). The deferment is also available to taxpayers who are at least 62 years of age, or the unremarried surviving spouse of a person who was at least 62 years of age at time of death. This bill eliminates the income requirement for these taxpayers, except for taxpayers who are at least 62 years of age, or the unremarried surviving spouse of a person who was at least 62 years of age at the time of death. For those taxpayers, the income threshold will increase to \$37,500 for the 2006 tax year and to \$40,000 for the 2007 tax year and beyond. It amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Sen. Nancy Cassis** (R- Novi) and co-sponsored by four others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 9-21-05, and assigned PA 114 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 147 of 2005**Senate Bill (SB) 271 of 2005**

Appropriations; Family Independence Agency (now the Department of Human Services); provide for fiscal year 2005-2006. Creates a new appropriations act. Sponsored by **Sen. Martha Scott** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by one other, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-5-05 with line-items vetoed, and assigned PA 147 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 154 of 2005**House Bill (HB) 4831 OF 2005**

Appropriations; other; zero budget appropriations bill; provide for fiscal years 2005 and 2006. Creates a new appropriations act. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-5-05 with line items vetoed, and assigned PA 154 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 161 of 2005**House Bill (HB) 4996 OF 2005**

Under provisions of the Public Health Code, dental hygienists, under the supervision of a dentist, can now provide dental hygiene services to patients who have not first been examined by a dentist as part of a program for "dentally underserved" patients conducted by a local, state, or federal grantee health agency. This bill amends the Public Health Code to revise the criteria for designation as a grantee health agency to include, for example, a public or nonprofit entity, or a school or nursing home that administers a program of dental care to a dentally underserved population. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by 36 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-4-05, and assigned PA 161 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 187 of 2005**House Bill (HB) 5055 OF 2005**

This bill modifies the nursing home and hospital Quality Assurance Assessment Programs (QAAPs) to extend sunsets, reflect the amount of tax retained by the State, and changes the way the nursing home QAAP is assessed. The QAAP includes county-owned nursing homes for the first time. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Bruce Caswell** (R-Hillsdale), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm**

10-27-05, and assigned PA 187 of 2005 with immediate effect.

Public Act (PA) 338 of 2005

Senate Bill (SB) 529 OF 2005

This bill would make homestead facilities eligible for residential tax abatements under the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone Act. Currently the act applies only to newly constructed and rehabilitated residential housing. This bill would apply to other existing residences purchased since December 31, 1997. The homestead facility would receive a property tax abatement equal to one-half of the property taxes levied for operating purposes on the building by the local unit and the county. It amends Public Act 147 of 1992. Sponsored by **Sen. Martha Scott** (D-Highland Park), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 12/31/05, and assigned PA 338 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 339 of 2005

Senate Bill (SB) 530 OF 2005

This bill would make homestead facilities eligible for residential tax abatements under the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone Act. Currently the act applies only to newly constructed and rehabilitated residential housing. This bill would apply to other existing residences purchased since December 31, 1997. The homestead facility would receive a property tax abatement equal to one-half of the property taxes levied for operating purposes on the building by the local unit and the county. It amends Public Act (PA) 147 of 1992. Sponsored by **Sen. Samuel Thomas III** (D-Detroit), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 12-31-05, and assigned PA 339 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 24 of 2006

House Bill (HB) 4670 of 2005

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to allow an individual who was retired from the active practice of medicine, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or podiatric medicine, and who wished to donate his or her expertise for the medical care and treatment of indigent and needy individuals or individuals in medically underserved areas of the state, to obtain a special volunteer license to practice by submitting an application to the applicable board. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and co-sponsored by 22 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 2-16-06, and assigned PA 24 of 2006 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 25 of 2006

House Bill (HB) 5375 of 2005

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to provide for civil immunity for retired physicians who volunteered their services at a health facility or agency serving the medically indigent. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and co-sponsored by 17 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 2-16-06, and assigned PA 25 of 2006 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 26 of 2006

House Bill (HB) 5168 of 2005

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to require an applicant for a health profession license or registration, or for reinstatement or reclassification of a license or registration, to undergo a criminal background check. In addition, the bill would allow a licensing board for good cause to request a licensee or registrant to have a criminal background check. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Tie barred with HB 5448, SB 621 and SB 622 (which meant none of them could take effect unless all of them did). Sponsored by **Rep. Paula Zelenko** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by 50 others, it was

approved by Gov. Granholm 2-16-05, and assigned PA 26 of 2006 with immediate effect.

**Public Act (PA) 27 of 2006
House Bill (HB) 5448 of 2005**

This bill would amend the mental health code to require criminal history checks on individuals seeking employment, an independent contract or clinical privileges with a psychiatric facility or immediate care facility for people with mental retardation. Amends Public Act (PA) 258 of 1974. It is tie-barred with HB 5168, SB 621 and SB 622 (which means none of them can take effect unless all of them do). Sponsored by **Rep. Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by 47 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 2-16-05, and assigned PA 27 of 2006 with immediate effect.**

**Public Act (PA) 28 of 2006
Senate Bil (SB) 621 of 2005**

This bill would expand the requirements for criminal background checks for new employees at health facilities and agencies, as well as individuals seeking clinical privileges and independent contracts. It would add two sections to the Public Health Code that applies to a health facility or agency that is a nursing home, county medical facility, hospice, hospital that provides swing bed services, home for the aged, or home health agency. In each case, a request would be made to the Department of State Police to conduct a criminal history check and to forward fingerprints into the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) database, and to forward fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The State Police would have to request the FBI to make a determination of any national criminal history pertaining to an applicant for employment. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. It is tie-barred with HB 5168, HB 5448 and SB 622 (which means none of them can take effect unless all of them do). Sponsored by **Sen. Patricia L. Birkholz** (R-Saugatuck) and co-sponsored by six others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 2-16-06, and assigned PA 28 of 2006 with immediate effect.**

**Public Act (PA) 29 of 2006
Senate Bill (SB) 622 of 2005**

This bill would expand the requirements for criminal background checks for new employees at foster care facilities, as well as individuals seeking clinical privileges and independent contracts. It would amend the Adult Foster Care Facility. In each case, a request would be made to the Department of State Police to conduct a criminal history check and to forward fingerprints into the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) database, and to forward fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The State Police would have to request the FBI to make a determination of any national criminal history pertaining to an applicant for employment. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. It is tie-barred with HB 5168, HB 5448 and SB 622 (which means none of them can take effect unless all of them do). Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1979. It is tie-barred with HB 5168, HB 5448 and SB 621 (which means none of them can take effect unless all of them do). Sponsored by **Sen. Tony Stamas** (R-Midland) and co-sponsored by six others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 2-16-06, and assigned PA 29 of 2006 with immediate effect.**

ABOUT RESOURCES FOR AGING

Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
Sharon L. Gire, OSA Director

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